

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A catheter device for penetrating through the wall of a vessel within a patient's body to a target location outside of that vessel, said device comprising:

a catheter body having a proximal end and a distal end, the catheter body being advanceable into the vessel;

a tissue penetrator that is passable from the catheter body, through the wall of the vessel and to the target location outside the vessel;

catheter orientation apparatus comprising at least one of i) an imageable marker indicative of the direction in which the tissue penetrator will pass from the catheter body and ii) an imaging apparatus for imaging at least the target location prior to passage of the tissue penetrator from the catheter body; and,

a stabilizer that is radially extendable from the catheter body to deter at least some movement of the catheter body within the vessel as the penetrator penetrates through the wall of the blood vessel.

Claim 2 (original): The catheter of claim 1, wherein the stabilizer is expandable.

Claim 3 (original): The catheter of claim 2, wherein the stabilizer comprises an apparatus selected from the group consisting of:

at least one balloon;

at least one cage structure that is deployable laterally from the catheter body;

at least one member that is deployable laterally from the catheter body; and,

a portion of the catheter body that is initially in a first non-stabilizing configuration and is subsequently transitionable to a stabilizing configuration.

Claim 4 (original): The catheter of claim 3, wherein the stabilizer expands concentrically about the catheter body.

Claim 5 (original): The catheter of claim 4, wherein the stabilizer is located within a distance no greater than about three times the diameter of the catheter from a location at which the penetrator exits the catheter body.

Claim 6 (Presently Amended): The catheter of claim 4, wherein the stabilizer substantially surrounds a location at which the penetrator exits the catheter body and wherein a penetrator passageway is formed in the stabilizer to permit the tissue penetrator to pass therethrough ~~herethrough~~.

Claim 7 (original): The catheter of claim 3, wherein the stabilizer expands non-concentrically about the catheter body such that a location at which the penetrator exits the catheter body is located closely adjacent to or in contact with the blood vessel wall when the stabilizer is expanded.

Claim 8 (original): The catheter of claim 7, wherein the stabilizer extends axially on both sides of a location at which the penetrator exits the catheter body.

Claim 9 (original): The catheter of claim 1, wherein the stabilizer device comprises a shape memory alloy element that is initially disposed in a first configuration whereby the stabilizer is not deployed and is subsequently transitionable to a second configuration whereby the stabilizer is deployed.

Claim 10 (original): The catheter of claim 1, wherein the stabilizer comprises at least two stabilizer members provided on the catheter, at least one of said stabilizer members being proximal to and at least one of said stabilizer members being distal to a location at which the penetrator exits the catheter body.

Claim 11 (original): The catheter of claim 1, wherein the stabilizer is further constructed to straighten a portion of the catheter body when the stabilizer is deployed.

Claim 12 (original): The catheter of claim 1, wherein the stabilizer is constructed and deployed in a manner that allows some body fluid to flow through the vessel, past the stabilizer, when the stabilizer is deployed.

Claim 13 (original): The catheter of claim 1 wherein the orientation apparatus comprises at least one penetrator direction marker is formed on the stabilizer, said at least one penetrator direction marker being useable in conjunction with an imaging device, to orient the catheter body within the vessel such that the penetrator will pass into the target location.

Claim 14 (original): The catheter of claim 13 wherein the penetrator direction marker is formed on the stabilizer at a location that is radially opposite the location at which the penetrator passes from the catheter body.

Claim 15 (Presently Amended): The catheter of claim 13 wherein the at least one penetrator direction marker is imageable by an imaging apparatus positioned outside of the patient's ~~patient=s~~ body.

Claim 16 (original): The catheter of claim 13 wherein the at least one penetrator direction marker is imageable by an imaging apparatus positioned on or in the catheter.

Claim 17 (original): The catheter of claim 16 wherein the orientation apparatus of the catheter further comprises a lumen for receiving an imaging apparatus therewithin such that the imaging apparatus may image the target location and at least on penetrator direction marker.

Claim 18 (original): The catheter of claim 16 wherein the orientation apparatus of the catheter comprises an imaging apparatus mounted in the catheter, said imaging apparatus being useable to image the target location and at least on penetrator direction marker.

Claims 19-51 (Cancelled)